

Serial No. 10/769,446  
Amendment and Response  
Page 6 of 6

**REMARKS**

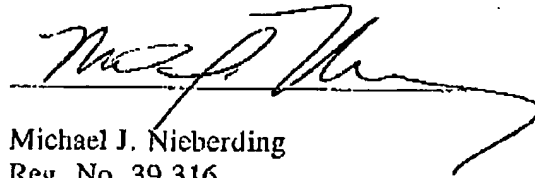
Claims 1-6, 8 and 18-26 were identified as allowed in the action. Claim 29 was indicated as allowable if amended to depend from claim 26.

The drawing objection does not apply, as claims 9, 30 and 31 are no longer pending.

Claim 29 has been amended to depend from claim 26. Only claims 1-6, 8, 18-26 and 29 remain pending. All rejected claims have been canceled. Accordingly, this application should be passed to issue.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of any claim prior to its amendment or of any claim cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Nieberding  
Reg. No. 39,316

THOMPSON HINE LLP  
P.O. Box 8801  
Dayton, OH 45401-8801  
Telephone: (513) 352-6719  
Facsimile: (937) 443-6635  
E-mail: IPGroup@thompsonhine.com

591377